GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:376
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
PRODUCTION KOF TITANIUM
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `India still to tap its rich reserves of wonder metal` published in the Hindustan Times dated June 22, 2000.

(b) if so, whether it is true that Titanium has its application in acrospace, power and bio-medicines and is as strong as steel but much lighter in weight;

(c) whether the experimental production of titanium is being undertaken in Research Plant of Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory, Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to consider the recommendations of Technology, information Forecasting and Assessment Council for the construction of 1000 tone Plant for the production of indigenous Titanium?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir

(c) Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), Hyderabad in collaboration with Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) is developing the technology for conversion of TiCl 4 to Titanium Sponge on industria scale batch sizes which could be directly utilised for setting up a commercial plant for production of Titanium Sponge. The technology development activity was started ab initio at DMRL, first in 2-ton batch size and now has been established in the 3.5 ton batch size by state of the art combined process technology. In Jan 2000, the process parameters have been optimised and product purity of Titanium Sponge has been achieved to international standards. Some Titanium Sponge has already been supplied to M/s Midhani, Hyderabad for melting and conversion trials to mill products.

(d) The need for setting up a 1000 tone per year Titanium Sponge plant was mooted in 1986. The essentiality for India to proceed ahead with 1000 tone per year plant was reiterated by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council in its report entitled `Titanium - a Material for the future.` A study has been undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy to determine the viability of setting up a 400 tone per year plant.